

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
Jorgenson's Inn and Suites
1720 11th Ave, Helena, MT
January 23-24, 2014

Members in Attendance: Marilyn Davis, Theresa Baldry, Chris Bilant, Tia Davis, Doug Dellwo, Dan Laughlin, Dawn Piazza, Diana Tavary, Barbara Varnum, Marvin Williams, Tessie Rose Bailey, Chris Bilant, Carolyn Prill

Excused Members: Clarena Brockie, Dave Marzolf, Laura Straus, Wendy Studt, Lily Wahl
(Tara Moore resigned from the Special Education Advisory Panel)

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, Anne Rainey, Andree Larose, Annette Young, Susan Bailey-Anderson, Mary Gallagher, Lloyd Sparks, Marlene Wallis

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Chairperson Marilyn Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Following review of the Proposed Agenda, Chris Bilant moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Theresa Baldry seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the minutes of the September 26-27, 2013, meeting. Theresa Baldry moved to accept the minutes, Diana Tavary seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the September 26-27, 2013, meeting were approved

Special Education Division Report

Frank Podobnik informed the Panel that Patty Muir, School Improvement/Compliance Specialist, has transferred from the Division of Special Education to the Division of Accreditation as an Accreditation Specialist.

He also stated that Anne Rainey is now the Part B Data Manager.

Melissa Niemi has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant in the Division of Special Education.

Frank discussed the Administrative Rules and the Federal Budget with the Panel. Frank told the Panel that the IDEA would see a 2.25 percent increase over last year. He said that the budget he saw did not show Part B Preschool.

Frank informed the Panel that the Board of Public Education has charged the OPI with the revision of the Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 58, Professional Educator Preparation Programs Standards (PEPPS). The standards identify what a teacher should know when leaving the university program and be able to do in their field.

CSPD Report

Susan Bailey-Anderson started her report by showing a video of a program Missoula put together.

Susan told the Panel that the CSPD Council has provided 20 Years of Excellence in Professional Development. The Council is superintendent appointed and is advisory to the OPI on Professional Development. There are five CSPD Regions.

The Professional Development Unit also covers the Paraprofessional Consortium; Higher Education Consortium; Early Childhood Partnership for Professional Development (ECPD).

The Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) Summer Institute is scheduled for June 16-20, 2014, in Bozeman. Highlights of the Institute include: Building Resiliency; Intervention Strategies for Struggling Students; Positive School-Wide Behavior Plans; Multi-Tiered Systems of Support; Bully Prevention, as well as many other areas.

The State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) is in its 4th year. The grant concludes September 2015. The grant includes MTSS Responsive Education for All Learners (REAL); MTSS Community of Practice; Response to Intervention (RTI); and working with Students with Low-Incidence.

The Montana's Deaf-Blind Project is housed at the University of Montana's Rural Institute on Disabilities. The purpose of the project is to serve as a resource to youth who experience both a vision and hearing impairment, their families, schools and their service providers. The project serves youth age birth to 21 who reside in Montana.

Susan reminded the Panel that Erin Butts is the contact for School Mental Health; and Doug Doty is the contact for the Montana Autism Education Project.

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) Report

Roger Holt reported that lots of things are changing on the national level. He noted that PLUK and TA for Centers are heavily involved in the changes. Initiatives becoming major projects with PLUK include Peer Support, Parent to Parent and Kid to Kid.

Roger distributed a flyer for "Parents Advocating for Kids (PAK)." The flyer announced a session called "Advocating for Your Child at the Legislature." It was presented at the Great Falls PAK Meeting. The presenter was Mary Caferro, State Senator.

EnvisionIT Grant Proposal

Dick Trerise introduced Marty Blair, Executive Director at The Rural Institute, University of Montana. He presented a grant proposal, Scaling-Up EnvisionIT: A Model for Teaching 21st Century Skills to Youth with Disabilities to Increase Their Academic and Transition Outcomes. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Education through The Ohio State University Nisonger Center. Montana team members would include the OPI, the Rural Institute, school districts/cooperatives statewide.

The purpose: state teams will scale-up and sustain a web-based curriculum for students with and without disabilities in grades 8-12.

The web-based curriculum, EnvisionIT, is aligned with the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and national standards in transition, Information Technology (IT) literacy and financial literacy

Potential Benefits of Team Participation: The opportunity for students to learn the fundamental 21st Century skills that they need for school and employment.

Review of By-Laws

It was suggested that the review of the By-Laws be included at the orientation meeting in the fall.

Adjourn

Diana Tavary moved to adjourn for the day, Tessie Rose Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Panel adjourned at 4:30 p.m. for the day.

Friday, January 24, 2014

Call for Public Comments

Chairperson Marilyn Davis announced the Call for Public Comments.

Lloyd Sparks, ADA Specialist, commented on issues of possible noncompliance in a school district.

Annual Performance Report (APR) to the State Performance Plan (SPP)

Dick Trerise and Frank Podobnik discussed the APR indicators with the Panel. The Panel received a copy of the Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2012 prior to the Panel meeting. The requirements of the indicators that were met and not met were discussed. This is the final year that the present system of reporting on indicators will be used.

The 2014 Annual Performance Report and revised State Performance Plan were made available to the public in March 2014.

The Advisory Panel will be involved in setting Montana's targets on the next APR.

Chris Bilant moved that the Special Education Advisory Panel support the submission of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2012, Marvin Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OPI Report

Steve York, Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Education Services, reported to the Panel on the following areas: Graduation Matters Challenge Fund: the development of our statewide network of locally designed, locally implemented, community-driven efforts to increase the number of Montana students who graduate from high school ready for college and careers in the Montana workforce.

Statewide Grad and Dropout Report Release: The 2013 statewide graduation and dropout report was released in February. We are excited that the hard work of local school and community collaborations is having a notable impact.

Graduation Matters Montana (GMM) Summer Summit: The GMM Summit, June 17, 2014, will be a day-long gathering during the week of the Montana Behavioral Initiative held on the MSU campus in Bozeman. In addition, GMM will be hosting a workshop on college-readiness for first-generation college students on Wednesday, June 18, in the afternoon. This workshop is a partnership between GMM and the Student Assistance Foundation.

Additional Items

Preview of May Meeting: Special Education Advisory Panel and CSPD Joint Meeting

May 1-2, 2014

Panel Agenda Items

GEMS Demonstration
Administrative Rules
Funding
Preliminary APR

Adjourn

Dan Laughlin moved to adjourn the meeting, Theresa Baldry seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at noon.